

Come and Hone your skills at the

Old Stone Fort Archaeo-Olympics

July 21st, 2012

Over thousands of years people in the Southeast practiced and honed skills that were essential for life. The art of making incredibly sharp stone tools, a process called flintknapping, gave you the tools to put food in your stomach and a roof over your head. Rope made of out of plant fibers and animal products held your world together. Skills with atlatls, blowguns, and rabbit sticks both fed and clothed you. Awareness of surrounding plants gave you food, medicine, rope, tools, and clothing. Knowing how to find and use resources in the environment is a core skill for any way of life. For Native Americans, these skills and practices were passed down from generation to generation for thousands of years.

In celebration of Tennessee State Parks' 75th anniversary, the staff at the Old Stone Fort State Archaeological Park would like to invite you to participate in the Archeo-Olympics on July the 21st, 2012. Throughout history, Native Americans practiced various skills that provided them with food, clothing, and shelter. This one day event will include demonstrations, activities, and some friendly competition in some of these skills such as: atlatls, rabbit sticks, and blowguns, the identification of medicinal/useful plants, useful rocks and soils, and animal tracking. All events will start at the park museum with the first activities beginning at 8:00 AM and the final events concluding at 4:30 PM. All experience levels and ages are welcome to participate and develop their skills. If possible, please call or email the park to let us know you are coming, however anyone who shows up to the park will be able to participate in the event, and as always, this event is free and open to the public.

The Old Stone Fort is a 2000 year old Native American ceremonial site, which consists of nearly 4000 feet of low, wall like mounds enclosing nearly 50 acres. For about 500 years the site served as a gathering area for people living in and around the eastern Highland Rim of Middle Tennessee. At the park there is a small museum dedicated to the site that features several exhibits on the archaeological site. Also available in the museum are guidebooks to the 1 ¼ mile interpretive trail around the site that leads along the rivers, waterfalls, and cliffs surrounding the archaeological site. The park's 51 site campground, which has showers and bathrooms, will also be open for the event to provide lodging.

The park is located off of US Highway 41 in Manchester. If travelling via Interstate 24, take exit 110, turn southwest on Highway 53 and follow the signs 1 ½ miles to the park entrance. Manchester is about halfway between Nashville and Chattanooga being about a 1 hour drive from each city.

**For more information contact:
Old Stone Fort State Archaeological Park
732 Stone Fort Dr.
Manchester, TN 37355
(931)723-5073
hobart.akin@tn.gov**